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CLASSIFICATION SECRETSECURITY INFORMATION  
REPORTCOUNTRY East GermanyTOPIC Military Information from RathenowEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 2 November 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. At about 8 p.m. on 10 October 1953, an undetermined number of troops, 6 x 300-mm rocket launchers, 22 trucks and 2 field kitchens were loaded on a train of 30 flatcars and 11 boxcars at the Rathenow main railroad station and left eastward. At about 8:15 p.m. on 10 October, 30 to 40 trucks, 3 x 300-mm rocket launchers and several field kitchens were entrained at the Nordbahnhof in Rathenow. 3 trains had been made available for the Soviet Army, with 1 train assembled at the main station and 2 trains assembled at the Nordbahnhof. the troops arrived from the area east of Magdeburg. (P-2) Prior to 13 October, all loadings allegedly took place at a small railroad station near Gross Behnitz. farmers in Hohenhausen about 7 km north of Rathenow had been told to harvest their crops as soon as possible, because of exercises which would take place there. However, the order was lifted, allegedly because the exercises did not take place. On 7 and 10 October, did not observe any Soviet troops in the Rathenow-Gross Wuldicke-Schoenhansen-Jerichow-Genthin-Burg-Schlagentin area or the Schollene-Gross Wuldicke area.
 

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2. Between 7 and 10 October, did not observe any exercises in the area south of Rathenow and in the Moegelin-Bamme-Rathenow area. the Arado installation near the Heidefeld railroad stop had been surrounded by a board fence and was occupied by a Soviet unit, with sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets. At about 2 p.m. on 7 October, 10 trucks hauled to the Infanterie Kaserne equipment, including billeting equipment, which had been stored at the Nordbahnhof. At about 3:50 p.m. on 7 October, a train of 25 boxcars occupied by 650 to 750 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia was unloaded. The detrained troops left for the Infanterie Kaserne. At about 11 a.m. on 10 October, 180 to 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, 43 trucks, 3 jeeps, 3 sedans, 1 tank truck and 2 field kitchens were loaded on a train of 6 boxcars, 18 RRY-type flatcars, and 20 flatcars, which left the Rathenow-Nord railroad station toward Gieschwitz. The motor vehicle numbers were covered.
 

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3. Loadings observed at the Rathenow-Nord railroad station on 10 October included: At 6:30 a.m., about 20 radio and repair shop trucks, about 15 driving school trucks, about 15 repair shop trucks and troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets,
 

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including some with signal insignia, on a train of 6 boxcars and about 50 flatcars, leaving toward the main station at 10:30 a.m.

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the troops had come from the Pionier Kaserne.

At about 11 a.m., 8 x 300-mm rocket launchers with trucks

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about 40 motor vehicles and others of the , about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and ammunition for 300-mm rocket launchers on a train of 14 boxcars and about 45 flatcars, leaving toward the main station at about 5 p.m.

the troops had come from the Kraftfahrer Kaserne. The ammunition had been hauled to the station on trucks

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At about 5:15 p.m., 8 x 300-mm rocket launchers with trucks

about 40 motor vehicles,

and 8 trucks loaded with 300-mm ammunition; and about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, had come from the Kraftfahrer Kaserne.

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On 13 October, a total of 540 hectoliters of fuel were drained from 2 tank cars at the Rathenow-Nord railroad station and were hauled away by tank trucks

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4. On 15 October, the Infanterie Kaserne in Rathenow was occupied as previously by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. In the afternoon of the same day, about 50 troops engaged in maintenance work in the barracks area. Trucks were seen en route to and from the installation.

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5. On 15 October, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The occupation strength had decreased after the departure of the shipment on 10 October. Some of the quartering buildings were dark, one building was partially lighted and one building was fully lighted after nightfall. On 14 October, about 70 troops engaged in physical training in the barracks yard. Truck was seen in the barracks area.

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6. On 15 October, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was occupied by about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The occupation strength had decreased after the departure of the shipment on 10 October. Most of the barracks buildings were dark and 2 buildings were partially lighted after nightfall. 4

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7.

1. Comment. the three trains which, with units of the IV Arty Corps, went to Gneschwitz for the fall maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army. The information indicates that each 8 guns of the 25th RL Brig were loaded on 2 trains. This observation, in connection with previous information, tends to indicate that the brigade is organized in battalions of each 8 guns, rather than 12 guns. Provided that 1 regiment is made up of 2 battalions and the brigade possibly is assigned 3 regiments, the number of artillery pieces assigned to the brigade would add up to 48 artillery pieces, which number had been reported in Prenitz in the fall of 1952. This assumption is, however, contradicted by the strength estimate for the Kraftfahrer Kaserne after the loadings. The third shipment presumably involved a headquarters unit of the IV Arty Corps or the 6th Arty Div, rather than a unit of the 18th Sov Arty Brig (US) from the Pionier Kaserne.

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2. [ ] Comment. [ ] small elements of the Third Shock Army practiced in the Jerichow area and westward as late as 8 and 9 October. [ ] 25X1
3. [ ] Comment. Some of the units of the 65th Mort Brig (US), which was repeatedly reported to have returned to the Infanterie Kaserne from Altengrabow, are rather safely believed to have arrived on trains [ ] 25X1
4. [ ] Comment. It is believed that [ ] the occupation strength of the installations mentioned. The 65th Mort Brig (US), among other units, can be carried in the Infanterie Kaserne, elements of the 18th How Arty Brig (US) can be carried in the Pionier Kaserne and elements of the 25th RL Brig, in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne. It may well be possible that elements of the 18th How Arty Brig (US) did not have returned to Rathenow by 15 October, but were still stationed at Altengrabow or, from there, had transferred to the fall maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army. The light occupation of the Infanterie Kaserne tends to indicate that elements of the headquarters or headquarters units of the 6th Arty Div stationed in the installation had transferred on the third train [ ] 1 25X1
5. [ ] Comment. [ ] probably belongs to a signal unit. For original document, see Annex. 25X1

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